

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-5 and 9-10, amended claim 6, and added new claims 11-18. Accordingly, only claims 6-8 and 11-18 remain in the application. Of the remaining claims, claims 6-8 were stated to be allowable if certain indefinitenesses were corrected, which applicant has done. New claims 15-18 are largely similar to now-cancelled claims 2-5 which were not rejected on any reference, and with indefiniteness avoided. None of the other claims 11-14 have been allowed.

Applicant has amended the title. If the Examiner finds that a new title is required, the Examiner is invited to inform applicant of such a title.

Enclosed is a copy of Figs. 2, 5 and 6 with requested changes shown in red ink.

All of the new claims 11-14 are somewhat similar to previous claims 1-10, which were rejected as obvious over Harris (6,582,133) in view of Meis (6,390,690).

New claim 11 which is somewhat similar to now-cancelled claim 2, describes an optic fiber connector system such as shown, for example, in applicant's Fig. 6, that includes first and second connector assemblies mounted on daughterboards. Each connector assembly includes a fiber optic connector (44, 46) with at least one terminus (92, 96) and with the terminus tips abutting each other in the final mating of the connectors. Each of the connectors has a pair of standoffs (101-104) that lie on opposite sides of the corresponding connector and fixed to a corresponding connector. Standoff tips (106) are positioned to pass into a motherboard hole and abut one another only after a deflectable terminus has been deflected outwardly (away from the other terminus) but before it is deflected outward beyond a predetermined maximum outward position. Such a predetermined maximum outward position is shown in applicant's Fig. 9 (at 166B).

Harris shows two optic fiber connector members (128, 130) (his Fig. 5) but does not show tips of his mating termini or show a pair of standoffs on opposite

sides of his connectors with standoff tips that abut one another when the terminus are mated. Meis shows the ends of his optical fibers, but does not show a pair of standoffs with tips that pass into holes in a motherboard to abut one another. Accordingly, applicant believes that the references together do not show applicant's invention, of standoffs at opposite sides of each connector, with tips that pass into a motherboard hole and abut one another when terminus tips are properly mated.

New claim 12, which depends from new claim 11, describes a body (e.g. 50 in applicant's Fig. 2) slidably inward and outward on a mounting bracket (54) and spring biased inwardly, and describes a pair of the standoffs (101, 102) being mounted on the body. Since neither reference shows pairs of standoffs and at least one pair mounted on a sliding body, applicant believes that new claim 12 should be allowed.

New claim 13 describes a method for mating a pair of optic fiber termini which includes establishing a pair of standoffs with tips, on each of a pair of optic fiber connectors that are each mounted on a daughterboard, and sliding the daughterboards inwardly until the standoff tips abut one another. Without the standoff tips determining how far the connectors can move towards one another, it may be necessary to provide tiny terminus stops to limit outward movement of one terminus of each mating pair. It also may be possible to precisely form each connector housing so the tips of two connectors precisely abut one another when the mating termini are fully mated, but this requires precision construction of connector housings, which is more expensive than forming and precisely mounting a pair of post-like standoffs.

New claim 14 describes a construction such as shown in applicant's Fig. 6, where a pair of guide pins (74, 76) are each mounted on a motherboard structure, and each guide pin has opposite end portions projecting beyond opposite faces of the motherboard structure and aligned with a pin-receiving bore (75) of one of the bodies to be received in one of the bores so as to precisely align the body.

Neither of the references show such guide pins aligning a pair of bodies on which

two connectors are mounted.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested. If the Examiner should wish to discuss the application, then the Examiner is invited to call Leon D. Rosen at (310) 477-0578.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon D. Rosen". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "L" and a cursive "R".

Leon D. Rosen  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 21,077

10960 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 1220  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
(310) 477-0578